

Slide 16: B. Braun, Allentown, PA

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This map shows you the results of the analysis we did for the community of Allentown, Pennsylvania

The map we are showing today shows risk levels we expected as of late July. B. Braun was originally one of the higher risk facilities in Region 3; however, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has been working with the facility and controls were installed in 2020 which significantly decreased risk from the original estimates. We will update the webpage for this facility and for other facilities when changes to operations or the amount of EtO like this occur.

I want to point out a few features on the map:

- The dark yellow box is the facility itself.
- The light yellow area is a non-residential area near the facility where risks are high.
- And the blue area includes residential areas where risks are at or above 100-in-1-million

In the blue area, the darker shading reflects higher risks and lighter shading lower risks, albeit still at or above 100-in-1-million. Note that as you move away from the facility, the blue shading gets lighter meaning that the risks get lower. I want to note that there is some uncertainty in these estimates as both operations at the facility and weather can change, but these are the best health-protective estimates we have available.

We use 100-in-1-million as our benchmark for identifying whether risk levels are considered “higher” and are of concern to EPA. When we say, 100/million we are saying that we estimate EtO exposure could contribute to an increase of 100 cancer cases if a million people were exposed at that level 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from birth to age 70. We start our calculations at birth because we want to make sure we are protective of children. We use 1 million as the baseline for how we calculate risk but nowhere near that number of people live near this facility. Near this sterilization facility, there are a little more than 400 people living nearby the facilities and the risk in this area is now reduced below 100-in-1-million.

Under the Clean Air Act, we focus on risks where people live. We are also concerned about risks to workers or others who might spend part of their time in the light yellow or non-residential area and in the facility itself, but this analysis was not focused on them. I will talk a little more about actions we are taking to address risk for workers and others who spend their time in these non-residential areas near facilities in a moment.

I want to remind you that while we are showing this map for Allentown, PA, the facility is working with PADEP to consider additional new pollution control systems to reduce risk in this community.

The maps on the website are in a format that will allow you to zoom in more easily.

Our regulations will work to protect people who live near, work in, and work or go to school near all of the commercial sterilization facilities even if they are not one of the 23.